

**READ AND YOU READ**

Talk about this photograph. Guess the answers to the questions below. Write your guesses on the lines.

1. Who are these people? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Where are they? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the little girl saying to the man? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Now turn the  
page and read.



# Christmas

December 25 is Christmas. Christmas is both a national holiday and a religious holiday. Christians remember the birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas. Many non-Christians celebrate Christmas too.

The Christmas season starts after Thanksgiving, in late November. Christmas is a time for giving presents to friends, family, and poor people. Churches, businesses, and other groups give money, food, and toys to needy families.

Some people make gifts, but most people buy presents in stores. Stores get very crowded around Christmas. There are shoppers everywhere! Stores have beautiful decorations in Christmas colors of red and green.

Many people decorate their homes at Christmas. They buy trees and decorate them with electric lights and ornaments. Some people put electric lights outside their houses. At Christmas, neighborhoods are beautiful with many bright Christmas lights.

Jewish people have a Festival of Lights in December. For eight days, Jewish people light candles and give gifts. This festival, Hanukkah, is a joyful holiday.

Before Christmas or Hanukkah, people send greeting cards to friends and relatives. These cards say "Season's Greetings," "Happy Holidays" or "Merry Christmas." People also bake cookies to share with friends and neighbors.

Christmas Eve is the night before Christmas. Children believe a fat, jolly man brings gifts on Christmas Eve. His name is Santa Claus. During the weeks before Christmas, parents bring their children to see Santa. Many stores have a Santa Claus for children to visit. The little girl in the picture is telling Santa about a teddy. She wants a teddy for Christmas. Santa tells her, "Ho, ho, ho, and a Merry Christmas!"

Late on Christmas Eve, Santa comes down the chimney and puts presents under the tree. He also puts gifts in children's stockings. On Christmas morning, children look under the tree and in their stockings for gifts from Santa Claus.

Many people go to church on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. They sing joyful songs, Christmas carols. On Christmas Day, families open gifts and eat a holiday dinner together.

## UNDERSTANDING NEW WORDS

Take turns reading these sentences and the words below with a partner. Decide together how to finish each sentence. Write the word on the line.

1. The Christmas season starts after Thanksgiving, in late November.  
week  
season  
month
2. Churches, businesses, and other groups give money, food, and toys to \_\_\_\_\_ families.  
rich  
angry  
needy
3. Stores get very \_\_\_\_\_ around Christmas.  
crowded  
quiet  
expensive
4. People buy trees and decorate them with electric lights and \_\_\_\_\_.  
presents  
ornaments  
cookies
5. Before Christmas, people send \_\_\_\_\_ to friends and relatives.  
Santa Claus  
Christmas lights  
greeting cards
6. Children believe a fat, \_\_\_\_\_ man brings gifts on Christmas Eve.  
jolly  
angry  
sad



7. On Christmas Day, Christians go to church and sing joyful songs.

These songs are Christmas \_\_\_\_\_ .  
carols  
stockings  
presents

8. Hanukkah and Christmas are \_\_\_\_\_ holidays.  
Christian  
joyful  
sad

## UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

### When Is the Holiday?

Fill in the year. Then write the dates for December. Circle Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

December 19 \_\_\_\_\_

| Sun. | Mon. | Tues. | Wed. | Thurs. | Fri. | Sat. |
|------|------|-------|------|--------|------|------|
|      |      |       |      |        |      |      |
|      |      |       |      |        |      |      |
|      |      |       |      |        |      |      |
|      |      |       |      |        |      |      |
|      |      |       |      |        |      |      |

### Correct the Sentences

Take turns reading these sentences with a partner. One word in each sentence is wrong. Correct each sentence together. Write the new sentence on the line below.

1. Christians remember the death of Jesus Christ on Christmas.

Christians remember the birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas.

2. The Christmas season starts after Thanksgiving, in late October.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Christmas is a time for giving presents to friends, family, and rich people.

---

---

4. Stores have beautiful decorations in Christmas colors of red and blue.

---

---

5. Jewish people celebrate Hanukkah for four days.

---

6. Greeting cards say, "Happy Christmas," or "Merry Christmas."

---

7. During the weeks before Christmas, parents bring their children to see doctors.

---

---

8. Children believe a fat, jolly man sells gifts on Christmas Eve.

---

9. Santa puts presents under the Christmas tree and in children's coats.

---

---

10. Many Christians go to school on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

---

## BEFORE YOU CONTINUE

- Look at your guesses on page 143. Were you right?
- Now fill in Christmas on the Holiday Chart on page 155.



### TALK ABOUT IT, *Activity 1*

Talk about these things with a partner or a small group. Six things are not related to Christmas. One is crossed out. Cross out five more. Then share your answers with the class.

|                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| <del>flags</del> | presents        |
| joyful           | Santa Claus     |
| carols           | cookies         |
| cemeteries       | ornaments       |
| yellow           | red and green   |
| pizza            | picnics         |
| stockings        | trees           |
| colored eggs     | electric lights |





## TALK ABOUT IT, Activity 2

### PARTNER A

You and a friend want to get together for dinner during the Christmas season. Look at your calendar for December. Ask your partner questions to find a date you can meet. *Do not* look at your partner's book.

Ask: "Are you free on Tuesday, December 3?"

"How about Tuesday, December 3?"

Answer: "I can't make it then. I have ESL class."

"That's not a good day. I have ESL class."

### DECEMBER

| SUNDAY  | MONDAY                      | TUESDAY                     | WEDNESDAY          | THURSDAY                            | FRIDAY                  | SATURDAY              |
|---------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1       | 2<br>ESL<br>CLASS           | 3                           | 4<br>ESL<br>CLASS  | 5                                   | 6<br>CHRISTMAS<br>PARTY | 7                     |
| 8       | 9<br>ESL<br>CLASS           | 10                          | 11<br>ESL<br>CLASS | 12                                  | 13                      | 14                    |
| 15      | 16<br>CHRISTMAS<br>SHOPPING | 17<br>CHRISTMAS<br>SHOPPING | 18                 | 19<br>DECORATE<br>CHRISTMAS<br>TREE | 20                      | 21<br>BAKE<br>COOKIES |
| 22      | 23<br>GROCERY<br>SHOPPING   | 24<br>CHURCH<br>AT 5:00     | 25<br>←            | 26<br>VACATION                      | 27<br>→                 | 28                    |
| 29<br>← | 30<br>VACATION              | 31<br>→                     |                    |                                     |                         |                       |

DATE FOR DINNER: \_\_\_\_\_

## PARTNER B

### TALK ABOUT IT, Activity 2



You and a friend want to get together for dinner during the Christmas season. Look at your calendar for December. Ask your partner questions to find a date you can meet. *Do not* look at your partner's book.

Ask: "Are you free on Monday, December 2?"

"How about Monday, December 2?"

Answer: "I can't make it then. I have ESL class."

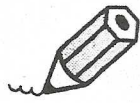
"That's not a good day. I have ESL class."

### DECEMBER

| SUNDAY                        | MONDAY | TUESDAY            | WEDNESDAY                       | THURSDAY           | FRIDAY                    | SATURDAY                 |
|-------------------------------|--------|--------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1<br>CHRISTMAS<br>SHOPPING    | 2      | 3<br>ESL<br>CLASS  | 4                               | 5<br>ESL<br>CLASS  | 6                         | 7<br>BAKE<br>COOKIES     |
| 8<br>BUY<br>CHRISTMAS<br>TREE | 9      | 10<br>ESL<br>CLASS | 11                              | 12<br>ESL<br>CLASS | 13<br>SHOP<br>WITH<br>MOM | 14<br>CHRISTMAS<br>PARTY |
| 15<br>SEE<br>SANTA<br>CLAUS   | 16     | 17                 | 18<br>DECORATE<br>HOUSE         | 19                 | 20                        | 21                       |
| 22<br>WRAP<br>PRESENTS        | 23     | 24                 | 25<br>DINNER<br>AT<br>GRANDMA'S | 26                 | 27                        | 28                       |
| 29                            | 30     | 31                 |                                 |                    |                           |                          |

DATE FOR DINNER: \_\_\_\_\_





## WRITE

Americans often send holiday newsletters with their cards. These letters tell the news of the past year. People write about their families, jobs, and vacations.

Read Marta's holiday newsletter to her aunt in New York.

December 15, 1991

Dear Aunt Connie,

Merry Christmas to you and your family! This past year was very busy. In September, I started a new teaching job. The boys are playing soccer after school. Last April, Miguel went to France for his job. He loved it!

We took a family vacation to Disneyland last summer. Everyone had fun. Maybe next summer we will come and visit you in New York!

We hope you and your family are well. Don't forget, you are always welcome to visit us in California.

Love,  
Marta

Now write a letter about last year. Then share your letter with the class.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## LET'S SING

During the Christmas season, you hear Christmas carols everywhere—in stores, in banks, and on the streets. Here are two famous Christmas carols.

### Jingle Bells

Dashing through the snow  
In a one-horse open sleigh,  
O'er the fields we go  
Laughing all the way.

Bells on bobtail ring  
Making spirits bright,  
What fun it is to ride and sing  
A sleighing song tonight!

Jingle bells, jingle bells,  
Jingle all the way!  
Oh what fun it is to ride  
In a one-horse open sleigh!

Jingle bells, jingle bells,  
Jingle all the way!  
Oh what fun it is to ride  
In a one-horse open sleigh!

### Silent Night

Silent night, holy night  
All is calm, all is bright.  
Round yon virgin, mother and child,  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night  
Shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glory streams from heaven afar.  
Heavenly hosts sing Hallelujah.  
Christ the Savior is born!  
Christ the Savior is born!

